UTAH QUALITY GROWTH COMMISSION

Fuhriman Agricultural Easement

Description: The Fuhriman Agricultural Easement will protect 68 acres of significant farmland in Cache Valley. The property contains the last remaining undeveloped portion of the original Elk Horn Ranch, the first attempt by Mormon pioneers to organize agriculture in the valley. The current cattle ranch supports barley and alfalfa crops.

Location: near Millville in Cache County.

Acreage: 68 acres

Grant funding: $100,000

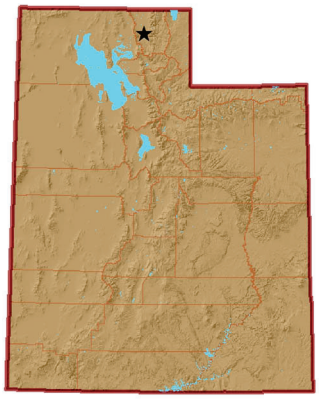
Total Project Cost: $555,494

Grant Awarded: September 2004

Partners: The Trust for Public Land, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

Local Support: Cache County, Millville City, Millville City, The Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce

Conservation Easement Held by: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.



Public Benefits

Agriculture: Historically, the ranch has been used as a turkey farm, a dairy farm, and for the production of crops. The current cattle ranch supports barley and alfalfa crops.

Wildlife Habitat: The property supports winter range for deer, elk, and other species. It also supports wild duck and goose habitat, especially during the winter months.

Historical and Cultural: Protection of the Fuhriman ranch will help to continue the historic agricultural character of the community settled by the early Mormon pioneers, including a portion of the original Elkhorn Ranch. The history of the Elk Horn Ranch began with its establishment in 1855 by a group of young men sent out by Brigham Young. Traditionally, the ranch served as a stopover point for visitors and new Cache Valley settlers, a militia camp from which to reconnoiter the Bear River region, and a social center for dances and meetings among the pioneer settlers.

Watershed Quality: The easement will ensure long-term protection of a portion of the Blacksmith River corridor. There are multiple benefits to watershed protection, such as protection of water quality and quantity, reduction of the threat of flooding, and providing a large groundwater recharge area.